

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195569

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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S E C R E T STATE 195569

EXDIS

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, IT

SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S VISIT TO GREECE

REF: ROME 12067

1. YOU MAY TELL ANDREOTTI WE APPRECIATE HIS OFFER TO CONSULT WITH US RE HIS VISIT TO GREECE SEPTEMBER 9. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOLLOWING TO BRIEF HIM BUT SHOULD LEAVE HIM NO PAPER.

2. WE ARE DISTURBED BY THE GROWTH OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN GREECE WHICH WE CONSIDER UNJUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF OUR EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL TO GREECE DURING THIS CRISIS. ANY INCREASE OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING WILL STRENGTHEN LEFTIST FORCES IN GREECE AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR GREECE TO RECONSIDER ITS ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO.

3. WE WELCOME MOVES BY EUROPEAN FRIENDS TO STRENGTHEN THEIR LINKS WITH GREECE. WE HOPE THAT THEIR EFFORTS WILL BE MADE IN SUCH A WAY AS NOT TO ENCOURAGE ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 195569

AND GREEK ESTRANGEMENT FROM NATO.

4. ANDREOTTI MIGHT WISH TO MAKE THE POINT TO THE GREEKS THAT: (A) THERE IS GENUINE REGRET AT GREECE'S STATED INTENTION TO WITHDRAW FROM MILITARY SIDE OF NATO AND STRONG HOPE THAT GREECE WILL REFLECT BEFORE IMPLEMENTING THAT INTENT. (B) SUCH A MOVE BY GREECE WOULD DAMAGE THE

COLLECTIVE SECURITY TO WHICH ALL ALLIES HAVE CONTRIBUTED AND FROM WHICH GREECE AS WELL AS OTHERS HAVE BENEFITTED OVER THE YEARS. (C) THE GOG WILL FIND ITS ALLIES HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE OF ANY EFFORTS ON GREECE'S PART TO CONTINUE IN ITS FORMER ROLE. (D) GREEK WITHDRAWAL FROM NATO WOULD ULTIMATELY PROVE DAMAGING TO THE GREEK ARMED FORCES WHICH WOULD LOSE CURRENT ACCESS TO SOPHISTICATED JOINT STAFF PLANNING/TRAINING AND INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION. THE ADVANTAGES GREECE GAINS FROM INTEGRATED DEFENSE PLANNING FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN WOULD ALSO BE LOST. THESE LIABILITIES WOULD BE ACCENTUATED BY TERMINATION OF NATO INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES IN GREECE WHICH HAVE BEEN A MAJOR FACTOR IN MODERNIZING GREEK MILITARY FACILITIES.

5. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS HELP PERSUADE GREECE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS PROBLEM. THE U.S. CAN BRING PRESSURE ON THE TURKS ONLY WITHIN A FRAMEWORK WHICH INVOLVES GREEK AS WELL AS TURKISH FLEXIBILITY. IT IS NOT IN GREECE'S INTEREST TO ALLOW THE CURRENT SITUATION ON CYPRUS TO GO IN TO STALEMATE. HENCE IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GREECE FIND A REALISTIC BASIS FOR RENEWED NEGOTIATION LOOKING TOWARD A LONG TERM SETTLEMENT OF THE CYPRUS ISSUE AND THE RETURN OF GREECE TO ITS TRADITIONAL PLACE WITHIN THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. KISSINGER

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